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February 7, 1958

Dr. Hiden T. Cox
Executive Director
The American Institute of Biological Sciences, Inc.
2000 P Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

My dear Cox:

This memo was revised since 1958 and was circularized in this form to the NAS council. I think that Dr. Bronk might be the best target for any representations on the matter you wished to make at the present time. I am hoping the matter will also be on the agenda of the forth coming International Congress of Microbiology in Stockholm this summer, though here again the NAS is probably the best channel of communication to the Russians. My chief concern is that this might become a partisan football, though this may not be sound political philosophy. In the last analysis Congress has not only the ultimate authority but the legitimate interest in such matters. Before any such discussions as these reach that level, however, I would hope we have more alert scientific backing, and clear procedural channels, for expert testimony to the congressional committee.

For this reason, I think we need rather more than a symposium on "Biology in the Space Age", but before that some study committees (preferably not more than 3-4 people each) on special aspects.

Would you see any useful merit in putting this letter as it stands into the AIBS Bulletin? The trouble is, the context changes so rapidly that it will probably be outmoded by the time it appears. It is also possibly too exhortatory for that vehicle - perhaps not.

I hope your visit to Madison will not be during the week of March 10. I will be leaving for Philadelphia Monday afternoon and will be gone for the week.

Have you fixed the time for the AIBS meeting this fall? I am a little apprehensive it may conflict with the Stockholm (microbiology) - Montreal (genetics) cycle of international congresses (August 4-27).

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew